

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 33609 140806Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01
ORM-02 DHA-02 MCT-01 TRSE-00 /074 W
----- 121496 /17

R 140719Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7134
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH
SUBJ: BILL GRANTING AMNESTY TO COUP GROUP APPROVED

1. ACCORDING TO THE DEC 14 BANGKOK POST THE COMMITTEE TO
SCRUTINIZE DRAFT BILLS APPROVED AND SENT TO THE NARA FOR
ITS CONSIDERATION A BILL TO PARDON ALL ACTIONS OF THE
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL (NARC) AND ITS AGENTS
IN SEIZING POWER ON OCT 6. THE BILL WAS SUBMITTED BY
ASSEMBLYMAN LTG SAWAI DUANGMANI, RETIRED JUDGE ADVOCATE
GENERAL. COL. SANGUAN KHAMONWONGSA, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY-
GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGED SUBMISSION OF THE AMNESTY BILL AND
PUT IT ON THE AGENDA FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON DECEMBER 17.

2. PREVIOUS REPORTS INDICATED THAT PRIME MINISTER THANIN
KRAIWICHIAN OBJECTED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE AMNESTY
BILL ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS SUPERFLUOUS, SINCE THE
CONSTITUTION HAD ALREADY PARDONED THE ACTION OF THE NARC.
ARTICLE 29 OF THE CONSTITUTION SPECIFICALLY
LEGALIZES "ALL ACTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR ORDERS"
OF THE NARC AND THE NARC LEADER (ADM. SANGAT CHALOYU)
AND "ACTS PROMULGATED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AFORE-
MENTIONED ACTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ORDERS."

3. COMMENT: AMNESTY FOR PERPETRATORS OF COUPS IS A
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STANDARD IF CURIOUS PRACTICE IN THAILAND. IN

THE CASE OF THE OCT. 6 COUP ONLY THE DELAY IN REQUEST-
ING AMNESTY WAS OUT OF THE ORDINARY. THANIN'S OBJECTION
TO THIS AMNESTY BILL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WELL-TAKEN.
AMNESTY GRANTED IN A CONSTITUTION DRAFTED BY AGENTS OF
THE COUP GROUP WOULD APPEAR TO BE AS VALID AS A LAW
PROMULGATED BY AN APPOINTED ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, IN
THIS INSTANCE THANIN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OVERRULED.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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